

## **Protest of the Bureau of Land Management's Notice of Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale in Wayne National Forest**

Dear Karen E. Mouritsen:

My name is Ellen Warfield and I am a student at The Ohio State University studying Evolution and Ecology.

I have reviewed the internet-based lease-sale for parcels of land in Wayne National Forest, and hereby object to the sale put forth by the Federal government concerning over 1,600 acres of mineral rights beneath the forest. My objections refer to the 28 parcels of land attached to this letter, and I object for the reasons outlined in the remainder of this letter.

First, peer-reviewed research has presented uncertainties about the adverse outcomes associated with high volume hydraulic fracturing. To elaborate, there has been research which gives evidence to the proposition that regulations are not capable of preventing the harm caused by fracking. Such examples of human harm include pollution of drinking water, toxic air pollution and smog at levels known to have health impacts, public health problems (including occupational health and safety problems), and potential exposure risks for those living near fracking sites. Further, evidence has shown that natural gas is a bigger threat to the environment than was believed in the past, earthquakes have occurred more frequently in areas where fracking exists, radioactive materials can be brought to the surface through fracking, and economic instabilities associated with fracking further exacerbate public health risks. Because there has been evidence to show that these potential health and environmental risks exist, more sufficient evidence is needed to decide whether fracking should commence, given the possible associated risks. In my opinion, high volume hydraulic fracturing should not be undertaken in the region when there is increasing evidence of the negative effects of such activities, and when there are further consequences that have not been fully researched.

Second, in an increasingly urbanized world, the stress put on plant and wildlife populations from habitat loss and fragmentation should be taken into consideration. Loss of habitat has a direct, negative relationship with the number of species found within an area. Further, when patches of land are separated into smaller, separated sections, the movement of species between these sections becomes strained or non-existent. Overtime, this can result in a major loss in population numbers, and less genetic diversity among remaining individuals. Less genetic diversity makes responding to new and unexpected environmental factors difficult to adapt to, which further causes strain to population numbers. Looking at this from another standpoint, natural biodiversity has been used multiple times in the past, both in order to gain better understanding of natural processes that humans are involved in, and also, in the creation of products frequently used by humans, such as aspirin. Taking this into account, preserving biodiversity is not only in the best interest of the flora and fauna species living in these natural areas, but also in the best interest of humans, as there is a plethora of knowledge and use that can be gained from further research on natural systems. Keeping Wayne National Forest in tact will help to preserve the biodiversity of the area.



Lastly, the use of public lands should be open to all, not just one industry. With the Wayne National Forest being the only national forest in the state of Ohio, the location is held in high regard by many of those that have frequented the land throughout their lives. With opportunities for camping, hiking, hunting, and fishing, the site serves as a place for outdoor enjoyment for a variety of individuals with varying interests. The positive effects that being within a natural habitat provides to mental health cannot be denied. In a time when land is continually converted to urban centers or areas of industry, doing the same with areas of Wayne National Forest would be a disservice to all of the individuals that use the land every year, especially with the possibility of negative consequences taking the place of current positive attributes.

In conclusion, the possible negative effects that fracking could have on the health of both the individuals living in the region, along with the negative affects that could be imposed on the environment of the region are cause for concern. Further, the loss of natural area in the region would be a great loss to the people who use the area every year. With this, I again urge against the lease-sale of the 28 parcels of land attached to this letter.

Sincerely,



Ellen Warfield  
92 E. Norwich Ave.  
Columbus, OH 43201



# **LIST OF PARCELS FOR SALE IN WAYNE NATIONAL FOREST**

11/5/2016

**Total # of Parcels: 28**

**Total Acreage: 1,622.11 acres**

**ES-003-12/2016 OHES 058185 ACQ**

Lee Township, Monroe County

Section 8, SENW, S2SWNE.

**60 acres**

**ES-004-12/2015 OHES 058186 ACQ**

Jackson Township, Monroe County

Section 14, NESE, Pt. SESE

**47.00 acres**

**ES-005-12/2016 OHES 058187 ACQ**

Jackson Township, Monroe County

Section 19, W2SE

**79.15 acres**

**ES-006-12/2016 OHES 058188 ACQ**

Jackson Township, Monroe County

Section 20, S3/4 NESW

**30.03 acres**

**ES-007-12/2016 OHES 058189 ACQ**

Jackson Township, Monroe County

Section 25

**94.72 acres**

**ES-008-12/2016 OHES 058190 ACQ**

Jackson Township, Monroe County

Section 26, NESW, Pt. NWSW

**78.25 acres**

**ES-009-12/2016 OHES 058191 ACQ**

Jackson Township, Monroe County

Section 27, SENW

**40.00 acres**

**ES-010-12/2016 OHES 058192 ACQ**

Jackson Township, Monroe County

Section 31, NESE  
**38.96 acres**

**ES-011-12/2016 OHES 058193 ACQ**  
Jackson Township, Monroe County  
Sec. 31, SESE  
**38.96 acres**

**ES-012-12/2016 OHES 058194 ACQ**  
Jackson Township, Monroe County  
Sec. 32, Pt. W2SW  
**64.30 acres**

**ES-013-12/2016 OHES 058195 ACQ**  
Perry Township, Monroe County  
Sec. 33, NESW  
**40.13 acres**

**ES-014-12/2016 OHES 058196 ACQ**  
Perry Township, Monroe County  
Sec. 34, Pt. SENE  
**15.12 acres**

**ES-015-12/2016 OHES 058197 ACQ**  
Perry Township, Monroe County  
Sec. 34, Pt. NENW  
**30.23 acres**

**ES-016-12/2016 OHES 058198 ACQ**  
Perry Township, Monroe County  
Sec. 34, Pt. NWNW  
**22.14 acres**

**ES-017-12/2016 OHES 058199 ACQ**  
Perry Township, Monroe County  
Sec. 35, Pt. SENSWSWE  
**30.64 acres**

**ES-018-12/2016 OHES 058200 ACQ**  
Perry Township, Monroe County  
Sec. 35, Pt. W2SWSW  
**0.86 acres**

**ES-019-12/2016 OHES 058201 ACQ**  
Jackson Township, Monroe County

Sec. 36, SESW, Pt. W2SW  
**39.65 acres**

**ES-029-12/2016 OHES 058211 ACQ**  
Jackson Township, Monroe County  
Sec. 36, NENE  
**40.22 acres**

**ES-030-12/2016 OHES 058212 ACQ**  
Perry Township, Monroe County  
Sec. 3, Pt. N2SE  
**28.00 acres**

**ES-031-12/2016 OHES 058213 ACQ**  
Perry Township, Monroe County  
Sec. 6, Pt. NE  
**56.00 acres**

**ES-032-12/2016 OHES 058214 ACQ**  
Green Township, Monroe County  
Sec. 1, SWSW, Sec. 7, N2SE, SESE  
**158.62 acres**

**ES-033-12/2016 OHES 058215 ACQ**  
Washington Township, Monroe County  
Sec. 18 Pt. W2NE, Pt. NW  
**58.14 acres**

**ES-034-12/2016 OHES 058216 ACQ**  
Wayne Township, Monroe County  
Sec. 3, NWNW  
**40.24 acres**

**ES-035-12/2016 OHES 058217 ACQ**  
Liberty Township, Monroe County  
Sec. 29, Pt. S2SESE  
**1.17 acres**

**ES-030-12/2016 OHES 058212 ACQ**  
Perry Township, Monroe County  
Sec. 3, Pt. N2SE  
**28.00 acres**

Sec. 19, Pt. SW, Pt. NW

**73.25 acres**

**ES-020-12/2016 OHES 058202 ACQ**

Jackson Township, Monroe County

Sec. 15, Pt. SWNE

**2.53 acres**

**ES-021-12/2016 OHES 058203 ACQ**

Jackson Township, Monroe County

Sec. 20, NENE

**40.08 acres**

**ES-022-12/2016 OHES 058204 ACQ**

Jackson Township, Monroe County

Sec. 20, NENW

**40.00 acres**

**ES-023-12/2016 OHES 058205 ACQ**

Jackson Township, Monroe County

Sec. 20, NWNE

**40.00 acres**

**ES-024-12/2016 OHES 058206 ACQ**

Jackson Township, Monroe County

Sec. 21, S2SE, E2SW

**157.44 acres**

**ES-025-12/2016 OHES 058207 ACQ**

Perry Township, Monroe County

Sec. 34, NESESE

**10.16 acres**

**ES-026-12/2016 OHES 058208 ACQ**

Jackson Township, Monroe County

Sec. 30, SESE

**39.98 acres**

**ES-027-12/2016 OHES 058209 ACQ**

Jackson Township, Monroe County

Sec. 30, Pt. N2SE

**64.72 acres**

**ES-028-12/2016 OHES 058210 ACQ**

Jackson Township, Monroe County